

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Computer Centre

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Date: Week ended 22 July 1971
Authorization: Director of the Computer Centre

1. OPERATIONS

1.1 PDP-10 System

Friday	16 July	System failure, software investigation 1140-1210 System maintenance, 1210-1330, 1412-1615, 1835-2045.
Monday	19 July	System failure, maintenance, 1535-1555 System failure, software investigation, 1624-1705.
Tuesday	20 July	System development, 1330-1415. System failure, software investigation, 1549-1601. Disk drive fault, maintenance, 1735-1805 System development, 2250-0003.
Wednesday	21 July	System failure, maintenance, 1017-1110. System failure, software investigation, 1430-1451 System development, 2315-2345.
Thursday	22 July	Daily accounting procedure, which could not run previous night due to DECTape error, 1000-1046 Disk drive fault, maintenance, 1046-1125 Daily set up procedure, 1130-1225 Card reader maintenance, 1415-1430 System failure, software investigation, 1415-1532 System failure, maintenance, 1745-1806, 1950-2020.

Schedule for forthcoming week: Maintenance 0700-0900, 2300-2400
Operations 1000-2130

1.2 GE-225 System

Schedule for forthcoming week: Maintenance 0700-0900, 2000-2100
Operations 0900-2000, 2100-2400

1.3 PDP-10 System Failures

As reported above, there have been a number of failures on the PDP-10 system during the past week.

Unfortunately the fault causing these failures is proving very difficult to isolate, as it occurs infrequently, displaying different symptoms on each occasion, and so far has not occurred during tests with diagnostic programs.

In order to solve the problem as quickly as possible, the Centre may delay restarting after a failure for a short period, so that an examination of the system at the time of the failure can be made.

The Centre regrets any inconvenience caused by this problem, and will continue to give this work top priority.

1.4 Revised hours of PDP-10 Operation

Users will notice that the scheduled hours for operation have been altered. Timesharing and batch processing will now run from 1000-2130 each day.

It is essential that the PDP-10 receives adequate maintenance and the system must be available to the technicians by 2300 hours. Operational procedures require between 1 and 1½ hours each day and these procedures must be completed before maintenance can commence. For this reason the hours of operation have been reduced by half an hour.

2. COMPUTER CLUB MEETING

On Wednesday 28 July there will be a meeting of the Computer Club at 1 p.m. in B18 on the topic 'PDP-10 Accounting System'.

3. NEW FORTRAN SYSTEM

A new FORTRAN system is shortly to be released for the PDP-10.

This comprises a new FORTRAN compiler, a new execution package and a revised set of FORTRAN library routines. Many new facilities are provided, including direct access processing of files, and many errors have been corrected.

It is planned to produce a special edition of the Newsletter which will be available on Thursday morning 29 July. This will describe the new facilities provided, errors corrected, and errors that still exist and give other details of the new system. This material is being produced before the system becomes generally available, so that users may become familiar with all details before commencing work with the new FORTRAN.

4. ACS LECTURE AND SEMINAR

Any persons so interested are reminded that Professor Galler will be delivering a public lecture and a one-day seminar this week.

Professor Galler is the second distinguished visitor to be brought to Australia under the ACS overseas visitors programme.

LECTURE - Wednesday 28 July 8.00 p.m.

The lecture will be entitled 'A view of programming languages' and will include a general review of presently available languages and possible future developments.

Hawken Auditorium, The Institute of Engineers, 447 Upper Edward Street.

SEMINAR - Thursday 29 July 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

The general subject of this seminar will be 'A demonstration of the Michigan Terminal System'. Topics will include a discussion of some desirable properties of a general purpose time sharing system and of the operating characteristics of such a system. A feature of the seminar will be the demonstration of the system using IBM's 360/67 in Canberra.

Australian Institute of Management, Management House, Boundary and Rosa Streets, SPRING HILL.

There will be a fee of \$1 for the lecture which includes supper and a nominal contribution to assist the Programme's expenses. For the seminar, the fee will be \$11 for ACS members and \$16 for others, including a buffet lunch and drinks at the conclusion of the day. Persons wishing to attend the seminar are requested to complete an application form available from the Honorary Secretary, ACS (Qld Branch), G.P.O. Box 1484, Brisbane. 4001.